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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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# Press Release

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## **ATTORNEY GENERAL MCGRAW AWARDS \$400,000 TO COUNTIES FOR DAY REPORT CENTERS FROM PURDUE PHARMA, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced \$400,000 in grants to counties for use in creating day report centers as alternative sentencing programs. The money comes from a settlement with Purdue Pharma, Inc. over the addictive qualities of the drug Oxycontin®.

Day report centers have been successfully used to save taxpayer dollars and to effectively treat substance abusers. The daily cost of day reporting centers can be as low as \$5 per person or a \$43.50 savings daily, when this program is used over a prison.

"The Courts and the Legislature have indicated a desire to use these programs as an alternative to prisons. The cost of housing non-violent offenders has proven costly to taxpayers and counties. No citizen wants to see vital county services scarified because of the high cost of housing prisoners.

"Day report centers clearly meet the terms of the agreement with Purdue Pharma. These projects are expected to give offenders whom the courts consider to be reasonable risks the opportunity to repair themselves and to rebuild their lives. That preserves families and spares taxpayers and cash-strapped counties the expense of housing offenders who would be better rehabilitated in their communities," McGraw said.

Purdue Pharma agreed to pay West Virginia \$10 million over four years, and the grants came from the first installment of \$2.5 million. The Office of the Attorney General is awarding grants of \$50,000 to eight county commissions in West Virginia, which will ultimately serve 12 counties, which represents more than 25 percent of the population.

The County Commissions receiving the money are Putnam, Monongalia, Ohio, Mason, Logan, Wyoming, McDowell and Kanawha. Ohio County's Lee Day Report Center, which was the state's first program, also serves Marshall, Brooke, Wetzel and Hancock Counties.

Calling illegal drug use and addiction a crime and "life-threatening disease," McGraw also said that drug addicts needed treatment and counseling in order "to hold jobs and to care for their families."

Jim Lee, Chief Probation for First Circuit Court serving Brooke, Hancock and Ohio Counties, commended these efforts. "We ought to lock down the people who are going to hurt us, but not the people we are mad at." Lee and First Circuit Court Judge Martin Gaughan advocated for the Community Corrections Act, passed by the Legislature in 2001, which authorized the creation of alternative sentencing programs.

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